

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1949

ANSWERED ON- 02/08/2024

INDIAN EXPATRIATES TRAPPED IN FOREIGN

1949. DR. M P ABDUSSAMAD SAMADANI

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

(a) whether the Government is aware of the unfortunate situation of several Indian expatriates being trapped in foreign countries and exploited for illegal activities, including online cheating;

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure the safety and well-being of these expatriates, including diplomatic efforts or agreements with the concerned foreign Governments to facilitate the safe return of these expatriates to India; and

(c) whether the Government has any plan to prevent such incidents in future and to conduct awareness campaigns and support systems for expatriates and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) Some cases have come to the notice of the Ministry where Indian nationals are being trapped in foreign countries including Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia and being exploited for illegal activities including online cheating.

(b) The Government accords highest priority to the safety, security and well-being of Indian nationals abroad and has robust mechanism to monitor the grievances, if any, received from them. Our Missions/Posts abroad remain vigilant and actively monitor, in case any Indian national in any foreign country is in distress or have any grievance. On receipt of such complaints, our Missions/Posts abroad take prompt action and appropriate measures to assist and provide relief to the aggrieved Indian national. Missions/Posts also take up these issues with the local Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other concerned Government agencies of the host countries like Immigration, Labour Department, Home Affairs, Defence and Border Affairs and law enforcement agencies etc., for prompt redressal. Government of India also takes up this issue at political level with the concerned Governments on numerous occasions.

Labor and Manpower Cooperation MOUs/Agreements that provide the overarching framework for cooperation on labour and manpower related issues are in place with the Gulf Cooperation Council countries (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and United Arab Emirates) and Jordan.

Further, to safeguard the specific interest of domestic workers in GCC Countries, agreements on Labor Cooperation for Domestic Sector have been signed with Saudi Arabia, UAE and Kuwait.

(c) Ministry keeps issuing advisories including on social media platforms and media briefings about fake job rackets from time to time. Such communications are also issued by concerned Indian Missions/Posts abroad through their websites, social media handles and through the print media. The Ministry through Indian Missions/Posts abroad, takes pro-active measures to rescue Indian nationals trapped in foreign countries whenever such cases come to the notice of the Ministry.

As and when complaints of illegal migration/human trafficking are received, such matters are referred to the State police for investigation and prosecution. Information about illegal agents is also uploaded and updated on regular basis on the e-Migrate Portal. The e-Migrate portal publishes the list of legal and illegal recruitment agencies and, a total of 3,042 illegal agents have been notified on the portal till June 2024.
